AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please cancel the heading "TITLE OF THE INVENTION," in line 1 on page 1 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 7 and ending at line 10, as follows:

The attributes of ~~said~~ each content include a compression format of ~~said~~ each content, and the distribution management server may determine the distribution method for the usage control data according to the compression format of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11 and ending at line 15, as follows:

The attributes of ~~said~~ each content include information to identify a content provider that provides ~~said~~ each content, and the distribution management server may determine the distribution method for the usage control data according to the content provider of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 and ending at line 19, as follows:

The attributes of ~~said~~ each content include a compression ratio of ~~said~~ each content, and the distribution management server may determine the distribution method for the usage control data according to the compression ratio of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 and ending at line 23, as follows:

The attributes of ~~said~~ each content include a use condition of ~~said~~ each content, and the distribution management server may determine the distribution method for the usage control data according to the use condition of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24 and ending at line 31, as follows:

Each of ~~said~~ one or more distribution servers may include at least one of the following units: a unicast distribution unit operable to distribute the usage control data by a unicast distribution method for distributing data in response to a request from the client apparatus; and a multicast distribution unit operable to distribute the usage control data by a multicast distribution method for distributing data all at once to a plurality of client apparatuses at a predetermined distribution time.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 32 and ending on page 4 at line 7, as follows:

The distribution management server may include: a distribution method determination rule holding unit operable to hold a distribution method determination rule indicating a rule to determine the distribution method; and a distribution method determination unit operable to determine the distribution method according to the distribution method determination rule, with reference to the distribution method determination rule corresponding to the attributes of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 and ending at line 14, as follows:

In the content usage management method, a distribution method determination rule indicating a rule of determining the distribution method is previously held, and in the distribution method determination step, the distribution method may be determined according to the distribution method determination rule, with reference to the distribution method determination rule corresponding to the attributes of ~~said~~ each content.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3 and ending at line 23, as follows:

It is a client apparatus in a content usage management system for distributing, via a network, usage control data for controlling a content use in the client apparatus by one of a plurality of different distribution ~~method~~methods. The client apparatus may comprise a content obtainment unit operable to obtain content including information indicating a distribution method for usage control data corresponding to ~~said~~ each content from a content server which distributes contents; a distribution method identification unit operable to extract information indicating the distribution method from the obtained content and identify the distribution method for the usage control data corresponding to said content based on the extracted information; and a usage control data obtainment unit operable to obtain the usage control data from a distribution server that distributes the usage control data by the identified distribution method. Accordingly, the client apparatus can identify a distribution method for the usage control data even when the information indicating the distribution for the usage control data is superimposed on the content. As a consequence, the client apparatus can obtain the content without any problems and use the content even when a distribution method for the usage data differs depending on the content.

Please replace the heading "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT," with --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION-- in line 11 on page 9 of the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12 and ending at line 13, as follows:

The following describes a preferred embodiment according to the present invention with reference to ~~FIG.~~FIGS. 1 to 17.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 5 and ending at line 14, as follows:

Users obtain the encrypted content from the multicast distribution server 122 or the encrypted content distribution server 124. A key to decrypt the content (hereafter referred to as content key) and content use conditions ~~are~~ is distributed by either of the content key distribution ~~servers;~~servers, the multicast distribution server 122 or the unicast distribution server 123. The content whose content key is distributed by ~~the~~ unicast distribution is registered at the encrypted content distribution server 124, and the content whose content key is distributed by ~~the~~ multicast distribution is registered at the multicast distribution server 122.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 10 and ending on page 15 at line 26, as follows:

FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B show a difference of data structures between an encrypted content stored in the multicast content DB 151 and an encrypted content stored in the unicast content DB 171. FIG. 8A is a diagram showing a data structure of the encrypted content stored in the unicast content DB 171 shown in FIG. 1. FIG. 8B is a diagram showing a data structure of the encrypted content stored in the multicast content DB 151 shown in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 8A, the content whose content key is distributed by the unicast is comprised of a content ID, encrypted content data, and the like. On the other hand, the content whose content key is distributed by the multicast, as shown in FIG. 8B, is comprised of a content ID, a content key, content use conditions, an encrypted content data, and the like. That is, the content of FIG. 8B is the result of superimposing a content key and content use conditions on the content of FIG. 8A. The data of the content key and the content use conditions shall be protected to be available only for specified client apparatuses 110 by using a function of limiting client apparatuses 110 which can use received data. Specifically, the content key and the content use conditions superimposed on the content and distributed by the multicast shall be pre-encrypted. The decryption key to decrypt the encrypted content key and the content use conditions is distributed only to the pre-registered users. The distribution methods of this decryption key includes a method distributing a client apparatus 110 whose nonvolatile memory such as a ROM (Read Only Memory) stores a

content key only to a pre-registered user and a method distributing a recording medium that recorded this decryption key to a pre-registered user. These methods allow a client apparatus of a pre-registered user to read out a decryption key from the ROM or a distributed recording medium and to decrypt a content key and content use conditions superimposed on a content distributed by the multicast. This client apparatus 110, by using this decrypted content key, decrypts an encrypted content and then can use the content according to the decrypted content use conditions. Note that the decryption key to decrypt an encrypted content key does not necessarily need to be distributed in a ROM and a recording medium but may be previously distributed by a secure communication to the registered users. This encryption method is further described in the ~~followings;~~following: a non-patent literature, Nakano, et al, "Digital Content Protection Key Management Method."; The 2001 Symposium on Cryptography and Information Security, 5A-5, 2001. In addition, the method of allowing the use of a content key and content use conditions distributed by the multicast only to a registered user is not limited to the digital content protection key management method but other methods may be also applied. The encrypted content having the above data structure may be generated by the content distribution management server 121 and stored in the multicast content DB 151 or may be generated by the multicast distribution server 122 and stored in the multicast content DB 151.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 9 and ending at line 21, as follows:

The content distribution management server 121 authenticates the content holder before it receives a registration request of a content to be distributed from the content holder. According to the present embodiment, the content holder needs to be registered previously at the content holder management DB 140. The content holder sends a content holder ID and a password to the content distribution management server 121, via the communication channel 130, by using the content registration terminal 100 when ~~requests~~ requesting a registration of the content to be distributed. The content distribution management server 121 judges success or failure of a login by checking a pair of the received content holder ID and a password with the data registered at the content holder management DB 140 (S901).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 6 and ending at line 16, as follows:

FIGS. 5A and 5B show how the distribution schedule DB 150 is updated. As shown in FIG. 5A, think about the case where the content distribution schedule of the content with the content ID "CONT_0002", the content key "0×bbbb…bbb (128-bit)", and the content use condition "reproduction times 1" is added to the distribution schedule DB 150 before ~~updated~~updating. The distribution schedule corresponding to "13:00" is available before the update so that such available time is assigned as a distribution schedule of the content to be added and the distribution schedule DB 150 is updated, which generates an updated condition of the distribution schedule DB as shown in FIG. 5B.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 17 and ending at line 22, as follows:

The content distribution management server 121, after registering a content key and content use conditions at each distribution server following the determined distribution method, registers the encrypted content whose content key is to be distributed by the unicast method at the content distribution server 124 (S908), and terminates the process.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 14 and ending at line 28, as follows:

A user previously registers at the user management server 120 before using a content. More specifically, the user first requests his/her registration to the user management server 120 by using his own client apparatus 110. Then the user sends his/her user name, a password, and a client ID of his/her client apparatus 110 to the user management server (S1201). While a client ID of a client apparatus 110 can be manually inputted by its user together with the user name and the password, it is general that the client apparatus 110 automatically attaches a client ID to the user name and the password which the user inputted and sends the resultant. The user management server 120 which has received a registration request of the user assigns a user ID

(S1202), adds data to a user management DB 180 (S1203) and terminates the process after reporting the completion of the user registration to the client apparatus 110.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 3 and ending at line 27, as follows:

The case is explained where a content key of a selected content and content use conditions are distributed by ~~the~~ multicast distribution. When the content key of the selected content is judged to be distributed by ~~the~~ unicast distribution, the client apparatus 110 further examines whether the content key of the selected content is held inside the client apparatus 110 (S1306). When the client apparatus 110 holds the content key of the selected content already, the content is reproduced by the client apparatus 110 using the content key held by the client apparatus 110 (S1311). When the client apparatus 110 does not hold the content key of the selected content, authentication is conducted between the client apparatus 110 of a user and the unicast distribution server 124, and a communication ensuring confidentiality and anti-falsification is carried out (S1307). While the present embodiment does not particularly describe a system of such communication method, SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) and the like is used. SSL is referred to A. Frier, et al. "The SSL 3.0 Protocol", *Netscape Communications Corp.*, 18 Nov. 1996. Note that the authentication between the client apparatus 110 and the unicast distribution server 123 may be substituted by authentication by a PKI method or by a common key method. Through the above-mentioned communication, the client apparatus 110 obtains the content key and content use conditions from the unicast distribution server 123 (S1308). At the step S1307, if the authentication with the unicast distribution server 123 is failed, the client apparatus 110 terminates the process.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 28 and ending on page 23 at line 23, as follows:

The case is explained where a content key of a selected content and content use conditions are distributed by ~~the~~ multicast distribution. When the content key of the selected content is judged to be distributed by ~~the~~ multicast distribution, the client apparatus 110

examines whether the client apparatus 110 holds the content key of the selected content inside the client apparatus 110 (S1309). When the client apparatus holds the content key of the selected content already, the content is reproduced by the client apparatus 110 using the content key held by the client apparatus 110 (S1311). When the client apparatus 110 does not hold the content key of the selected content, the client apparatus 110 receives the content key from the multicast distribution server 122. In the multicast distribution, the multicast distribution server 122 distributes content, a content key, and content use conditions by the multicast based on a previously set distribution schedule. Since the client apparatus 110 does not hold the content key and content use conditions inside the client apparatus 110, the client apparatus 110 waits until the next multicast distribution (S1310). The client apparatus 110 can obtain a schedule of the multicast distribution from the multicast distribution server 122. The distribution method by the multicast of the present embodiment is implemented by the distribution method with a function of limiting the number of client apparatuses 110 that can use received data, because it is needed to be distributed only to the client apparatuses 110 used by users who are managed at the user management server 120. The specific implementation method is referred to Nakano, et al, "Digital Content Protection Key Management Method."; The 2001 Symposium on Cryptography and Information Security, 5A-5, 2001.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 18 and ending on page 25 at line 5, as follows:

The content decode unit 1405 is a function processing unit which decodes a content according to a content compression format and outputs video and audio data. The client ID storage unit 1406 is a memory unit and function processing unit ~~where~~ which stores a client ID, and the communication unit 1401 obtains the client ID from here when a distribution of a client ID is needed in the communication with a server. The content key storage unit 1407 is a memory unit and function processing unit which stores a content key and content use conditions. The content key and content use conditions obtained at the step S1308 in FIG. 14 are stored in the content key storage unit 1407. The input unit 1408 is a function processing unit which inputs a request from the user. The request processing unit 1409 is a function processing unit which

performs a process according to a request inputted by the input unit 1408. The distribution method determination unit 1410 determines whether the content key of the content selected by the user is distributed by the multicast distribution or by the unicast distribution. The screen output unit 1411 is a function processing unit which renders video to be reproduced and information from a server and presents them to the user.